

Convention Budget. The Clerk will read the report.

READING CLERK: The third report of the Committee on Rules, Credentials and Convention Budget concerning compensation of delegates.

THE PRESIDENT: The report is referred to the Committee on Calendar and Agenda.

Are there any other reports of standing committees, Mr. Clerk?

CHIEF CLERK: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: This report is one which, under the rules, must lay over for two days, two full session days; and I am therefore anxious that every delegate have his copy of the report before this session adjourns today. If any of you do not have a copy at the time of adjournment, will you please let the Clerk know before you leave the floor?

DELEGATE BOYER: Mr. President, while the papers are being distributed, a point of personal privilege. I would like to report that belatedly I learned that one of our esteemed delegates yesterday had a birthday, and I think that it would be appropriate, perhaps, if we could extend to my former French teacher, Miss Catherine Beachley, the best congratulatory messages of this house.

Congratulations are in order. "Je vous aime, Je vous adore. Que voulez-vous de plus encore?"

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is in order.

*(Applause.)*

DELEGATE BEACHLEY: I would like to say I thank Delegate Boyer and congratulate him upon his wonderful memory and excellent pronunciation, and also I would like to make a semblance of, shall we say, a privileged communication between us, since he used a foreign language, and say to him, Je vous remercie, mille fois, Elroy. Je vous aime, aussi.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Are there any other motions or resolutions?

*(There was no response.)*

I have just a very few announcements.

The additional copies of the final report of the Constitutional Convention Commission are on the way at this moment from

the binder near Baltimore and should be in Annapolis within the next half hour or hour. This, again, is a limited number, although there would be ample for the delegates. There have been so many requests for the report that I have instructed the librarian not to distribute them generally until all delegates have received such copy or copies as they may desire. It would be very helpful if you would indicate to the librarian, or to the Chief of Staff, whichever is more convenient for you, if you desire additional copies or how many additional copies you desire.

We are assuming that each delegate will want an additional copy. These have been sewn and will be easier for handling than the loose copies which you have. Therefore we will reserve at least one copy for each delegate. We hesitate to put them on your desk in the committee room, and therefore will distribute them here on the floor, put them on your desk just before the session tomorrow. If you desire them before that, you can pick them up at the library later this afternoon.

I have been requested to announce that the absence of Delegate Frank C. Robey is due to the fact that his grandmother is being buried this afternoon at 2:00 P.M. He asked particularly that the announcement be made because he thought there was some possibility that there would be action taken this afternoon on several matters in which he is interested. That is not the case.

His request, however, prompts me to state to the Convention that I have not followed a policy of stating to the Convention the reasons for the absence of delegates because the matter of absence is under, or excuse for absence, is under consideration by the Committee on Rules and I thought it would be more appropriate, once we had acted upon the report of that committee and had determined what, if any, action we should take with respect to absences that I at that time would announce, if such be the purpose of the rule, the reason for the absence, not only on that day, but on all previous days. The record is being kept, and it can be noted at that time.

If the Convention desires any different procedure, and desires that in each instance reasons for absence be publicly announced by the presiding officer, it can be so indicated in the discussion of the report of the Committee on Rules and whatever practice the Convention desires to follow, will be followed.

I also want to call your attention to the fact that Resolution No. 3, introduced yes-